

VA Ag BMP Cost Share Programmatic Changes for 2017

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FY 2017-18 VACS Cost-share Funds \$52,596,839

CB

- \$15,594,119 VACS
 - Supplemental 16 SL-6
\$13,988,104
- \$29,582,223 Total**

OCB

- \$10,396,079 VACS
 - Supplemental 16 SL-6
12,618,537 SL-6
- \$23,014,616 Total**

Technical Assistance Increase

- Keep FY 2013 TA \$ as a base level of TA \$ for all SWCDs PLUS
- VACS TA Allocations from VNRCF increased from 8% to 12% of cost-share \$

2017 VACS cost-share Allocation Calculations

- Based upon 2014 Agricultural NPS Assessment
 - 2014 HU Assessment
 - HU rankings changed due to using Ag. Acres rather than Total Acres to Calculate Potential Pollutant Loadings
- Historically and 2017 Cost-share Allocations;
 - 50% of \$ to H ranked HUs (20% of HUs)
 - 30% of \$ to M ranked HUs (Middle 50% of HUs)
 - 20% of \$ to L ranked (Lowest 30% of HUs)

2016 Supplemental Allocations & Cost-share Grants (2 years)

- 2016 Supplemental allocations to be spent on SL-6 Backlogged applications
- 2017 VACS allocations may be moved back to 2015 to fund SL-6 Pending
- Cost-share caps apply the year that funding is approved by the BOD
 - Not the year of application
 - Not the year of cost-share payment

Section I of the BMP Manual is “Policy and Procedures on Soil and Water Conservation District Cost-share and Technical Assistance Funding Allocations for Fiscal Year 2017”

- All 2017 policies and procedures have been approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Board
- The 2017 Ag BMP Manual reflects these approved policies

New language to determine which District services a field that crosses District Boundaries

- Page II-1 Discusses
 - Updated Boundary layer in Tracking Program
 - OR largest acreage within a District
 - OR other agreed upon boundary determination methodologies

Some Important Policies for FY 2017

- SWCDs may identify their own applicant cost-share caps so long as it is less than programmatic caps (\$50,000)
 - Applicant caps Do not apply to “SL-6 Pending” applications OR RMP-1 or RMP-2 application
- No 2017 Reallocation if existing SL-6 Pending applications remain unfunded, if no unfunded SL-6 Pending applications then Reallocation process applies
 - FY 2017 (6/30/2017) End of Year Accounting
 - Unobligated 2017 Cost-share (C-s) \$ Will be Deducted from 2019 C-s \$ as advance on FY 2019 C-S Allocation

Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCB) Approved Changes to VACS for 2017

- SL-7 Remove requirement to be implemented simultaneously with CREP CRSL-6
- SL-8B, winter hardy oats eligible statewide, no manure, clarify no nutrients
- SL-8H, up implementation to 600 acres, 300 acres may receive manure if qualified

SWCB Approved Changes

- WP-4 Update eligible components
- WP-4B Update eligible components
- WP-4C Update eligible components
- WP-4F Update eligible components
- WQ-12 Roof Runoff Management (NEW)
75% Cost-share rate
 - Allows cost-share on cisterns & storage tanks

SWCB Approved Changes

- LE-2, SL-6, & WP-2: Clarify & standardize no grazing language; “Grazing (including flash grazing) is not allowed in the protected riparian area during the lifespan of this practice. When both sides of the stream are under the same ownership livestock must be excluded from both sides of the stream”

Multiple Practices Modified

- New Technical Responsibility language for all BMPs
- Removed NRCS 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection from LE-2, SL-6 & WP-2 specifications; use WP-2A if your project needs Streambank & Shoreline Protection

SWCB Approved Changes

- NM-5 Precision Nutrient Management for row crops
 - Requires the implementation of two eligible components:
 - Corn Stalk Nitrate Test, Pre-side dress Nitrate Test, Variable rate Nitrogen and Phosphorous applications based upon zone or grid soil sampling
 - Rate= \$8/acres for acres receiving variable rate N or P applications + \$8 /Test
 - Defines Zone & Grid soil sampling & in Glossary

2016 Conflict Of Interest Act COIA

- District Officers and Employees may participate in VACS, Both before & after 7/1/2016
- Exception does not apply to subcontracts or other agreements to provide services for implementation of a cost-share contract

New Voluntary Practice Reporting Section in Manual

- Contains written standards to be met to report voluntary BMPs
- Voluntary BMP = Installed without **any** Public Funding Assistance OR
- Be Out of Lifespan AND meets standards and specifications
- Must sign Landowner Assessment form (Form – DCR 199-206) to report

Two Different Voluntary BMPs

- VSL-8D Cover crop (Combines SL-8B & SL-8H) may or may not be harvested
 - Allows standard planting date for SL-8H
- VSE-5 Voluntary Stream Exclusion with or Without Grazing Land Management
 - No requirements for watering facilities; fence must be permanent and functional; no setback distance or construction specs
 - No flash grazing in the protected riparian area

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Need to have new CREP applicants sign contract Part I
- Before issuing cost-share payment must sign Participant Practice Installation Certification Contract Part III

Same as FY 2016

- No April Reallocation
- Full Accounting at the end of FY 2017
- May use SL-6 Pending allocation (from unfunded SL-6 accounting 3/11/2016)
- and/or 2017 VACS Allocation \$ to fund existing 2015 SL-6 Pending Applications

Ag. Engineering Program

- DCR Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) – Defined in Glossary
- Used in Technical Responsibility Language
- Added chart in VACS & Tax Credit section that identifies components that can be designed & constructed using approved EJAA & others that need PE review

Conservation Planning (CP) Module

- District Conservation Technicians will need to be trained and request security access to use CP module
- DCR will provide on-line and in classroom trainings
- More strict IT Security Requirements

Changes to Conservation Efficiency Factor Calculations

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
Implementation areas replaced by
Impaired Waters Layer (Broader
applicability)
- Bacterial impairments identified as Ag. or
Septic
- Animal units Used for Exclusion and
Animal Waste CEF calculations

Admin. and Ops. Policy and Grant Agreement Changes

- Include in Non compliance section of Admin & Ops Policy “ The Board may reduce future funding to Districts that fail to act upon guidance and recommendations from auditors and the Department”
- Deliverables in Policy Document and Grant agreements to be the same

New follow-up Policy based upon District Assessments

- C's get "Letter of Notice" requiring that the District develop a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) within 60 days
- District Directors & Staff will present their PIP to VSWCB during Dec. meeting along with any actions taken to date towards improved performance.

QUESTIONS?

